

House Resolution 232

By: Representatives Buckner of the 130th, England of the 108th, Benton of the 31st, Roberts of the 154th, Epps of the 128th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Rural Health Association and recognizing February 13, 2007, as
2 "Rural Health Day"; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the Georgia Rural Health Association (GRHA) is a nonprofit advocate for rural
4 health care consumers and the dedicated health professionals who serve rural Georgia and
5 encourages the development of an improved health care system throughout the state; and

6 WHEREAS, even though Georgia has 118 rural counties with over 2 million residents –
7 one-third of the state's population – rural counties are served by only one-half as many
8 physicians as urban counties, and the availability and quality of health care facilities and
9 professional services continues to decline; and

10 WHEREAS, rural counties have higher rates of cancer and cardiovascular mortality, infant
11 mortality, child abuse, and teen pregnancy, and the health care demand posed by the growing
12 uninsured population and elderly population far exceeds the local resources; and

13 WHEREAS, the Georgia Rural Development Council recognizes that the limited availability
14 and quality of rural health care facilities and services further aggravate the area's distressed
15 economy and deter industry recruitment; and

16 WHEREAS, state and federal officials need to focus on the plight of rural communities and
17 the need for better access to health care, workforce development and training, and access to
18 funding for aging health care facilities.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
20 the members of this body commend the efforts of the Georgia Rural Health Association and
21 recognize February 13, 2007, as "Rural Health Day."

- 1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House is authorized and directed to
- 2 transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Rural Health Association.